

Final Assessment Report
Submitted by SUPR-G to SCAPA

Program:	Environment and Sustainability	
Degrees Offered:	Master of Environment and Sustainability (MES)	
Approved Fields:	None	
External Consultants:	Asaf Zohar Associate Professor, Business Administration and Chair, Sustainability Studies, Trent University	Peter Tyedmers Professor and Director, School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University
Internal Reviewers:	Erika Chamberlain Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Law	Matthew Cross, PhD Candidate (Engineering)
Date of Site Visit:	16-17 April 2015	
Evaluation:	Good Quality	
Approved by:	SUPR-G on November 16, 2015 SCAPA on November 25, 2015	

Executive Summary

The MES program is an impressive interdisciplinary graduate program with a relatively unique 12-month structure. It attracts high-quality students who appreciate the professional skills and experience they gain through the program. Students are exposed to a range of interdisciplinary perspectives on environmental management and sustainability practice, and receive a remarkably broad education during their eight months on campus. The four-month co-op placement was viewed as a key feature and a recruitment advantage, allowing students to gain relevant experience and make connections within the industry. The program aligns well with the University's emphases on interdisciplinarity, sustainability, and experiential learning.

The reviewers suggested that the MES program be given greater institutional priority, particularly in terms of physical space and faculty complement. The heavy reliance on limited duties instructors limits their potential to make connections across the curriculum and poses the risk of program disruption from year to year. The reviewers also suggested that the program consider the possibility of electives or additional certifications to accommodate students' disciplinary backgrounds and career objectives.

Significant Strengths of Program:

- Excellent opportunities for students to gain professional and practical skills, such as through technical workshops, consulting projects, and co-op placement
- Virtually all students complete the program successfully and on time
- Substantial breadth of learning takes place within a compressed time-frame
- Committed and talented faculty
- High level of support from administrative staff

Suggestions for Improvement & Enhancement:

- Review the current structure of the program and consider offering electives or additional certifications to accommodate students' disciplinary backgrounds and career objectives
- Clarify the level of professional competence that students will obtain in certain areas
- Review the exclusive nature of the program and consider offering courses to suitably-trained students from outside the MES program
- Seek a more student-friendly learning space

Recommendations required for Program sustainability:	Responsibility	Resources	Timeline
Review the level of professional competence students can be expected to achieve, and adjust learning outcomes accordingly	Program Chair and Individual Faculty	None	In progress
Identify core competencies in sustainability and incorporate them across curriculum	Program Chair and Individual Faculty	None	In progress
Consider offering electives or additional qualifications to reflect students' backgrounds and aspirations	Program and Faculty	May require additional teaching resources; tuition costs to students	3 years
Consider opening courses up to suitably prepared non-MES students	Program and Faculty	May increase teaching workload	3 years
Review adequacy of learning space	Program and Faculty	Physical, financial	3 years
Review reliance on limited duties instructors	Program and Faculty	Financial, human	3 years